

Message Text

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14

ACTION AGR-08

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INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR CH

SUBJECT: RAIN AND SNOW IN NORTHERN CHINA

1. THE PEOPLE'S DAILY, FEBRUARY 14, REPORTED TIMELY RAIN AND SNOW IN NORTH, NORTHEAST CHINA AND AREAS SOUTH OF THE YELLOW RIVER HAD EASED THE DROUGHT IN THOSE AREAS.
2. SNOWFALL IN NORTH SHENSI, SHANSI, HOPEI, TIENTSIN AND PEKING WAS EQUIVALENT TO TWO TO EIGHT MILLIMETERS OF PRECIPITATION.
3. ONE TO TWO MILLIMETERS OF RAINFALL WAS RECORDED IN INNER MONGOLIA, WEST LIAONING, WEST KIRIN AND WEST HEILUNGKIANG.
4. PRECIPITATION OF FIVE TO 15 MILLIMETERS WAS REPORTED FOR SOUTH SHENSI, MOST OF SHANTUNG, NORTH ANHWEI AND NORTH KIANGSU.
5. BETWEEN 10 AND 25 MILLIMETERS OF RAIN FELL IN HONAN AND HUPEH.

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6. HONG KONG CONGEN OFF TRAVELING FROM CANTON TO PEKING FEB

16-18 REPORTED SCATTERED RAINS FROM CHANGSHA TO WUHAN; NOTED WATER STANDING IN FIELDS BUT NO EVIDENCE OF FLOODING. BETWEEN WUHAN AND CENTRAL HUPEH FROST BUT NO SNOW. FROM CENTRAL HUPEH TO SOUTHERN HONAN SNOW COVER INCREASED TO OVER THREE INCHES. AT HSIN YANG, CHINESE REPORTED IT HAD BEEN SNOWING SINCE FEBRUARY 15.

7. COMMENT: WINTER WHEAT SOUTH OF YELLOW RIVER SHOULD SHOW DEFINITE BENEFIT OF RECENT RAINS. HOWEVER, PRECIPITATION NORTH OF THE YELLOW RIVER WILL PROVIDE ONLY MARGINAL DROUGHT RELIEF. SOIL MOISTURE IN THIS AREA HAS BEEN DEPLETED AND PD STATED THAT PRECIPITATION WAS THE FIRST TO "FALL OVER VAST AREA IN NORTHERN CHINA SINCE LAST WINTER." THE FACT THAT PD REPORTED WAS CARRIED BY NCNA (SAME DATE) IS AN INDICATION OF CHINESE CONCERN OVER THE EFFECT OF ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS ON THIS YEAR'S WINTER WHEAT CROP.
THAYER

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